



## Media Release

---

Contact:

**Julie Munsell, Office of Communications**  
**(501) 682-8650**

**For Immediate Release**

November 14, 2008

### **DHS announces personnel actions at Arkansas State Hospital**

The Department of Human Services announced today the termination of three nurses and the suspension of three other employees from the Arkansas State Hospital. Those suspended included two mental health workers and a public safety officer. Hospital administrators took the action against staff based on preliminary findings that staff failed to properly follow incident response procedures. The investigation stemmed from an October incident of attempted suicide by a female client. The client later died from the injuries sustained during the incident.

“Over the last several months, we have made some very positive changes to the culture at the Arkansas State Hospital,” said Jay Bradford, director of DHS Division of Behavioral Health Services. “We have a new facility and much stronger accountability, for which I’m very proud. We must continually reinforce good decision making every day.”

The department is not identifying the disciplined staff pending the resolution of grievance procedures for state employees. The division’s investigation is still ongoing and once completed, findings will be made available to appropriate licensing boards and regulatory agencies.